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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/536,006	03/23/2000	Patrick M. Phillips	ELECT-043436	2659

22045 7590 06/06/2005

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EXAMINER
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WINTER, JOHN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/536,006

Applicant(s)

PHILLIPS ET AL.

Examiner

John M Winter

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 21, 39, 44, 48 and 49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 7, 21, 39, 44 and 48 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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## DETAILED ACTION

Claims 7,21,39,43,44,48 and 49 remain pending

### *Response to Arguments*

The Applicants arguments filed on March 15, 2005 have been fully considered. The examiner submits that the indicated allowability of claim 49 has been withdrawn in view of the reference to Norton (US Patent 6,243,689). Column 6 lines 37-55 of Norton discloses a negative transmission indication is sent back to the terminal. The examiner contends that this feature meets the claimed limitation of if the check is returned by the Automated Clearinghouse, additional processing is conducted comprising the step of determining why the check was returned.

The examiner would like to note that US patents 5,832,460 (Bednar et al.) and 5,893,080 (McGurl et al.) have not been cited in the present rejection but are pertinent prior art.

The Pollin reference has been withdrawn.

See following rejection.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pare, Jr et al (US Patent 6,230,148) in view of Norton (US Patent 6,230,148).

As per claim 49,

Pare Jr. et al. ('148) discloses an article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for electronically clearing and cashing a check submitted to an on-line merchant from an on-line consumer by electronic means, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting an input of check information submitted by consumer;(Figure 7 [element 1,2, and 4 a router sends electronic check transactions to data processing center])

verifying the accuracy of the check information;(column 8, lines 41-46 [the EM verifies the financial accounts of both parties are valid])

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presenting the check information for clearing through the Federal Reserve's Automated Clearing House;(column 11, lines 38-45[ stored transactions are forwarded to ACH operator])  
debiting the consumers checking account from which the check was drawn in an amount indicated in the check information;(column 4, lines 57-59[. transaction is debited from the payors financial account..]))  
crediting the merchant's account in the amount indicated in the check information.(column 4, lines 59-61[the transaction amount is credited to the payee's financial account])

Pare Jr. et al. ('148) does not explicitly disclose wherein if the check is returned by the Automated Clearinghouse, additional processing is conducted comprising the step of determining why the check was returned generating shipping/mailling data for one of the articles at one of a plurality of client terminals which are linked to a host terminal, wherein generating comprises information transfer between the client terminal and the host terminal. Norton ('689) discloses wherein if the check is returned by the Automated Clearinghouse, additional processing is conducted comprising the step of determining why the check was returned (Column 6 lines 37-55 [a negative transmission indication is sent back to the terminal] It would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Pare Jr. et al method with the Norton in order to reduce the cost of operation by minimizing faulty transactions.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 7,21,29,39,43,44,48 are allowed.

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**Conclusion**

Examiners note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Winter whose telephone number is (571) 272-6713. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **James Trammell** can be reached at (571) 272-6712. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

**Washington, D.C. 20231**

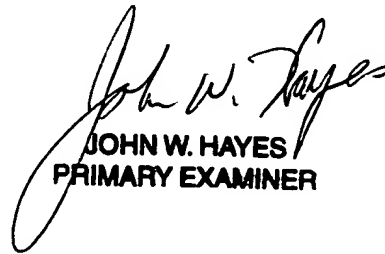
or faxed to:

(703) 305-7687 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(703) 308-1396 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the Examiner in the Knox Building, 50 Dulany St. Alexandria, VA.

JMW  
May 29, 2005

  
**JOHN W. HAYES**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**